

CERTAINE QUERIES

Propounded, to the standing ENGLISH ARMY, By an unfeigned Friend of Piety
and Publique LIBERTY.

OH you standing Army of England! were you not raised and maintained for Defence of the Peoples priviledges in a free Representative, which ought to be as free from apprehension of force, as impulsion of Faction? But are you not now made use of for carrying on the contrary, to the very Abolition of Parliaments by unheard of Violations and unpresidented breaches, whereby is not Liberty (the Honour and Purchase of our Ancestors) the price of your own and Brethrens Blood, Time, Treasure, Prayers, Tears and Appeals, become an Eutopia to us and ours? Nay, are we not a Prey to those alone, who have taken to themselves the determining Power of the danger and necessity of three Nations, and under pretence of Cementing, have unsettled our security; over which have they not usurped a most unparralleld arbitrary Power? Hereupon is not the hand of God gone out against you abroad, and a sentence of Death (as some of your own Party have confessed) past upon you at home? Are not our Estates wasted, Trade by Land and Sea decayed? And after some thousands of lives lost; for your Hypocrisies, Apostacies, Perjuries, and Oppressions, are you not all the world over become a Callumny or Parrable of reproach? Yet can you enjoy your places and profits, (whilest others true unto their Trust are persecuted and oppressed by imprisonment, banishment, &c.) stand still and see the Free Representatives of the People (the very Bulwarks of our Liberties) laid aside or cut assunder with the same Sword, which were first drawn for their Defence?

II.

Yet wouldst thou of the Army be so honest after all your Interposings as to permit a true decision of the Question, whether the judging Power of the Nations necessity and safety more properly depends upon a Parliament or a Protector? Would it not soon be decided, whether it were more proper for the People to have good laws executed by a Religious Representative of their own without a Protector, set up of and by himself; or to be under a Protectors Will and Power, without a Representative, or any law, but what he's pleased to put upon us, without or against the consent of Representatives or People? Hereby is not your Protector (as is apparent by too many Presidents) sole judge and Advocate in his own and all other cases, courts and causes? But if the Peoples Representatives be the undoubted supreme Authority of the Nation, is it not easie to determine, who in this case should be the Judge of all Necessities, &c. Or, is it not easie also by this means to understand what danger we are already in, of forfeiting the security of all our Estates, Laws, Liberties, Priviledges and Proprieties, by an unparralleld Arbitrary Power? Or, once more to be made a most miserable sacrifice to an unlimited Royal Malignity, under the unequalled Power of a most perfidious and presumptuous single Person?

III.

When Justice was executed upon the late King, when Parliaments were purged, and dissolved, did not your General in yours and his own name, Promise and protest, to remove all oppressions and oppressors, ~~to carry on the work of~~ Reformation in that much commended way of a Common-wealth, (in opposition to Monarchy) the very next step (as some understand it,) to that expected and approaching kingdome of Christ, so speciously by your intituled Protector pretended to at *Pinckland-hills* in *Scotland*? Oh have you forgotten how often with hands and eyes heaved up to Heaven, he hath Protested, that if God would be pleased to enable him thereunto, he would endeavour to promote the Cause and Kingdome of Christ Jesus, if not in Power, yet in Justice and Righteousness? Might he not yet do it if he would? Or, if he will not, may, nay ought you not to endeavour to see it done (in pursuance of your Oathes, Protestations and Declarations (especially that in *Scotland* 1650.) without him? Will not otherwaies

all the Nations of the Earth in the present and after Ages say, that either you wanted Grace and Motion to endeavour it, or skill and courage to effect it?

IV.

But if you pretend ignorance of your oatie herein, will it not behove you to look back to what you have sworn to maintain, appealed, Covenanted, Protested and Engaged to make good? Are there not hands and hearts enough in *England* ready to promote and pursue the purchase of publique Liberty (the price of so many by-past bloody victories) and in order thereunto, to set up a Free Representative consisting of men fearing God, and having Coveteousnesse, men of choise light and life, who can content themselves to make the Scriptures the rule of all their actions and Ordinances? Will not they avoid former Fractions and Divisions in the House, siding with the scruples of any other wayes, meddling with matters of conscientious concernment? Would they not be bound up or limited by their Electors, for making (upon any other grounds of humane invention) which are either tyrannicall or Arbitrary? May not upon this ground Publique Liberty, Fifth Monarchy, (so called) and all other honest interests be united? The Cavaleerish and all other destructive Parties prevented and disappointed?

V.

The Members of a Free chosen by such as have from hitherto continued faithful (all Neuters, Apostates, Parasites and underminers being thereupon our God (by enabling you to the gagements) rowle away the restore (together with the proper Peoples Representatives) the honours? Nay hereby may you not in arbitrary Power, become once more of your Country, the prosperous people set themselves over us? Who are Juncto of Parasites (under the name to undergo the odium they lay upon pressing the People, by taking up and ungratefull promotion of the most ignominious conclusion of a

VI.

But will not you of the Army men you must: If Monsters, still kindred, and having fought us to be so degenerate as either to letty, or to the Invasive power of a to seal our miseries with the for Conscience. But may we not of that ancient Engli

we thus appointed and encement of the War God and their Countret or open Oppressors, might not the Lord to make good your Enly under, and withall and Priviledge of the interest of these Nationing mercenaries to an mentally the Saviours of those who have plotting to pack a of a Parliament) ing, polling and op the most ungainfull or other wayes the race?

Are we honest? If but to your Country and in to slavery, dare try to the Royall party Enemy, or otherwise but Honour, Faith and have some remaining which shined so eminent-ly you (seemingly) stance hereof prompt take? Can you set Ho to lo, as not defici your du- rable to any generous not a direfull execra- bility curse your dust to God and your ble to so noble an- deserved- Repairers